

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 HONG K 06381 200310Z  
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 INSE-00 /029 W  
-----052793 211058Z /14

R 190911Z MAY 78  
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 467  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 6381

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SREF  
SUBJECT: ARRIVAL 22 BOAT REFUGEES EX SINGAPORE FREIGHTER

REF: HONG KONG 6265

1. HONG KONG IMMIGRATION DEPT (HKID) HAS NOT YET GIVEN THESE 22 BOAT REFUGEES TEMPORARY ASYLUM. WE UNDERSTAND FROM HKID THAT SINGAPORE GOVT IS BEING ASKED TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM. WHILE HKID IS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT RESULTS, IT CONCERNED ABOUT METHOD THEIR ARRIVAL.

2. THESE REFUGEES ENCOUNTERED SINGAPORE FLAG SHIP TONG SING ON MAY 13 IN SOUTH CHINA SEA PROCEEDING FROM SINGAPORE TO PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. SHIP FIRST REFUSED TO ASSIST THEM, BUT REFUGEE BOAT FOLLOWED SHIP AND BEGAN TO FLOUNDER IN ITS WAKE. AT THAT POINT SHIP PICKED THEM UP. WHEN SHIP WAS NEAR HONG KONG WATERS ON MAY 18, REFUGEES WERE OFFLOADED INTO LIFE BOAT WITHOUT OARS OR MOTOR AND SET ADRIFT. SHIP APPARENTLY RADIOED HONG KONG MARINE DEPT TO REPORT LOCATION OF LIFE BOAT AND PROCEEDED ONWARDS. ROYAL NAVY VESSEL RESPONDED TO CALL AND PICKED UP THESE  
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REFUGEES.

3. REFTTEL WAS INCORRECT IN REPORTING THAT SINGAPORE SHIP FIRST WENT TO PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

4. ARRIVAL THESE REFUGEES WAS REPORTED IN TODAY'S SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST WITH HEADLINE "CAPTAIN DUMPS HUMAN

CARGO." URBAN COUNCILLOR DR. HUANG WAS REPORTED ON  
ARTICLE AS STATING HONG KONG GOVT SHOULD LODGE PROTEST  
WITH SINGAPORE GOVT THROUGH LONDON. ARTICLE NOTED THAT  
ANOTHER URBAN COUNCILLOR, MRS. ELLIOTT, DESCRIBED THEIR  
TREATMENT BY CAPTAIN AS INHUMANE.  
SHOESMITH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES, SEA RESCUES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978HONGK06381  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780213-1290  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780541/aaaabiep.tel  
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**Message ID:** 6d488c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION HA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Reference:** 78 HONG KONG 6265  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2640748  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ARRIVAL 22 BOAT REFUGEES EX SINGAPORE FREIGHTER  
**TAGS:** SREF, HK, VM  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014